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LETTER DATED 22 JULY 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to forward to you enclosed herewith the text of the statement issued today by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia.

I should be grateful if you would circulate this as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative

Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia

Erevan, 22 July 1993

Just before the next stage of implementation of the CSCE Minsk Group's peace initiative, representatives of the official structures of Azerbaijan once again resorted to propagandistic disinformation by spreading false rumours about the capture of Agdam by Karabakh forces.

In actual fact the Azerbaijani forces, which, according to some reports, are formations of Suret Guseinov, attacked the positions of the Karabakh Self-Defence Forces on 21 July 1993 from the north and south of Agdam, with the support of 12 armoured-vehicle units.

After repulsing the attack, the self-defence forces of Nagorny Karabakh went on the counter-offensive and repelled the adversary. The situation as of 1900 hours on 21 July was that Stepanakert was being shelled from the Agdam railway station with 152-mm long-range weapons, as a result of which 14 missiles hit the town.

Specific information about casualties and damage is being gathered. This information has been confirmed by representatives of the International Committee of the Red Cross and by foreign journalists who are currently in Stepanakert.

Throughout the night and morning of 22 July, fighting raged in the direction of the district centre of Askeran.

On 22 July, the Azerbaijani side used aircraft in the combat operations.

An extremely tense situation has also developed around the village of Matagio in the Mardakert region.

There is no reliable information as to whether G. Aliev was notified in advance of these operations. It is quite clear that exacerbation of the military situation around Nagorny Karabakh is part of the continuing power struggle and the internal instability in Azerbaijan, which its leadership is once again trying to resolve on the Karabakh fronts. This places entire responsibility for the escalation of the conflict with the current leaders of Azerbaijan, and casts doubt on their ability to fulfil their obligations under the CSCE peace plan.